



A Study of Environmental Awareness of Secondary School Students in Relation to Certain Variables

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1 Introduction

An environment is the natural surroundings which help life to grow, nourish and destroy on this planet called earth. Natural environment plays a great role in the existence of life on earth and it helps human beings, animals and other living things to grow and develop naturally. But due to some bad and selfish activities of the human beings, our environment is getting affected. It is the most important topic that everyone must know how to protect our environment to keep it safe forever as well as ensure the nature's balance on this planet to continue the existence of life.

“The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.” – Mahatma Gandhi.

The ‘Environment’ is a term used to represent an entire systems, geology, and climate. An Environment can be any scale, including global, regional, local, and even down to single locations, and things like buildings. Often the phrase ‘the environment’ is used to denote the global environment, or a larger regional environment. On a more human level, the environment, the air, water, temperature, and biology of a certain extent of a place are what sustain us, and define the limits of what we can do to a certain extent.

The deterioration in environment has affected almost all the people and mostly the children. Today's children are tomorrow's citizen. They must be taught for nature conservation and must be inspire to do positive towards Mother Nature. Each and every child has their own feeling and love for nature. It is necessary to know their awareness towards nature and nature conservation. This study is being conducted to know that what they know about environment conservation and whether they are aware about the environmental problems or otherwise.

2.Statement of the problem

It is necessary to clear the subject. The study of the subject is very important to know the environmental awareness of the students of secondary school of Ahmedabad city. The statement of present research is as under

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In present research the study has been conducted to know the environmental awareness of secondary school students in context to various variables like gender and types of management.

3. Defining the Key Words of the Problem

Key words clarification will make the study helpful.

3.1 Environmental Awareness

3.1.1 Theoretical Definition

Envision the increasing of awareness and understanding of the environment through education. Most of our population is not aware of our limited resources and how quickly they are being used up. Hence

environmental awareness means to make every individual aware of the environment as a whole and its related problem.

When people "go green," they are practicing environmental awareness. The term means exactly what you expect it to: it means being aware of the natural environment and making choices that benefit--rather than hurt--the earth we all live on. In recent years, environmental awareness has gained increased attention

3.1.2 Operational Definition

The marks students achieved on Environmental Awareness Scale is Environmental Awareness

4. Variables of the Study

In present study the following variables were selected

Table: 1 Table showing types of variable and its level

| Sr. | Types of variables | Variables | Level |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Dependent | Environment Awareness | --- |
| 2 | Independent | Gender | 1.Boys 2.Girls |
| 3 | Independent | Types of Management | 1.Granted 2.Self Finance |

5. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the present study are as under.

1. To study the environmental awareness of the secondary school students of Ahmedabad city.
2. To prepare environmental awareness scale to know environment awareness of secondary school students of Ahmedabad city.
3. To study environmental awareness of the secondary school students of Ahmedabad city in context to Gender.
4. To study the environmental awareness of the secondary school students of Ahmedabad city in context to Types of School Management.

6.Hypotheses of the Research

The null hypothesis formed by researcher are as follows.

Ho₁ There will be no significant difference between mean score of Boys and Girls of Secondary School on Environmental Awareness scale.

Ho₂ There will be no significant difference between mean score of students of Granted and Self finance Secondary School on Environmental Awareness scale.

Ho₃ There will be no significant difference between mean score of Boys and Girls of Granted Secondary School on Environmental Awareness scale.

7. Importance of the Research

The importance of present research is as under.

- To know the environmental awareness of the students studying in secondary school.
- To aware acquire knowledge, develop attitudes and be able to address real – life environmental problems.
- To create environmental awareness in the world population.
- To gain skills for identifying and solving environmental problems.
- To help people gain experiences and gains a basic understanding of the environment and related problems.

- To help people acquire values and feelings of concern for the environment and encourage their participation in improvement and safeguard of our environment.
- Acquiring an awareness of the whole environment and the many problems that have arisen with regard to human misuse of environment and developing a sensitivity in people in this context.
- To provide an opportunity to get involved at all levels in the task of resolving environmental problems.

8. Limitation of Research

The following are the delimitations of the study

- Present research is limited to only students of English medium.
- Present research is limited to the students of academic year 2020-21.
- The research is delimited to the secondary school students of GSEB only

9. Origin of the Problem

Every country is putting efforts to integrate environmental concerns with education. According to these countries, EE should not only be a part of the education system but also the political system where actions, policies and plans can be formulated and executed at national level. Therefore, the subject on environment and its protection has been taken. If the student learn to protect environment, the whole society will change tomorrow.

But what student think about environment and its protection? To know their awareness towards environment also this subject has been chosen.

10. Population of Study

In the present study all the Secondary school students studying in English medium schools of Ahmedabad city in GSEB are the population of study.

11. Sampling

To constitute the sample the researcher has got the list of secondary school affiliated with GSEB from DEO office. Then he divided schools in granted and self finance school. Next the researcher selected 4 English medium schools randomly by lottery method. Two granted schools and two self finance school were selected from population. All the students present on the day of data collection were the sample of the present research. Thus, the researcher used stratified random sampling technique to select the sample. Researcher selected 230 secondary school students in sample.

12. Research Methodology

In the present study the researcher has employed the survey method. It is the most popular and most widely used researcher method in education researcher can gather information in terms of individual scores by a standardized test.

13. Tools of the Study

In present research researcher has used self made Environmental awareness scale in association with Guide and Experts of the field to know the awareness about environment and issues related environmental protection of Secondary school students. Following steps was followed to construct the Awareness Scale.

14. Data Collection of the Study

In the present study the researcher used self made Environmental Awareness scale. Researcher first took the permission of Principals from selected schools and personally went to the schools. Then she gave information about her research work and necessary instruction about Environmental Awareness scale

filling. Researcher also took the help of School teachers. She collected all the data and gratitude her thanks to the students, teachers and principal for their cooperation in data collection.

15. Statistical Techniques Used

In order to analyze and interpret the data obtained by the administering the students Environmental Awareness. The statistical measurement of mMean, S.D. & t-test were used. The test of the significance of the difference between two mean is known as t value. In the present study, researcher used t value because there is comparison between two variables.

16. Testing of Hypothesis

16.1 Analysis and Interpretation of scores in context to Gender

The standard error of Mean, t-value and the significant level of score of Environmental Awareness Scale of Boys and Girls are computed for testing null hypothesis. This detail is given in below Table-2

Table 2: Statistics of Boys and Girls

| Gender | Number N | Average \bar{x} | Standard Deviation (SD) | Error of | t-score | Significance level |
|--------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Boys | 129 | 45.18 | 11.47 | 0.32 | 3.46 | 0.01 |
| Girls | 101 | 44.07 | 11.22 | | | |

In above table 2 we can see that mean values of Boys and Girls are 45.18 and 44.07 respectively. The S.D. value is 11.47 and 11.22. SED is 0.32. with the help of all these values computed t is 3.46 which is higher than the tabulated value 2.58 at 0.01 level so null hypothesis

H₀₁ "There will be no significant difference between mean score of Boys and Girls of Secondary School on Environmental Awareness scale." is not accepted. Therefore, we can say that there is significant difference between the average score of Boys and Girls on Environmental Awareness scale. Environmental Awareness of Boys students are higher than that of Girls students. It means there is an effect of gender on Environmental Awareness.

16.2 Analysis and Interpretation of scores in context to Types of Management

The analysis and interpretation of scores on Environmental Awareness scale of Secondary school students in relation to Types of Management is as follow.

The frequency distribution is constructed on the basis of scores of Environmental Awareness of students of Granted and Non granted School of whole group of sample. On the basis of frequency distribution the statistics are computed which show in table 3.

Table 3: Standard Error of Mean, t-value and significant level of scores on Environmental Awareness scale of students of Granted and Self finance Schools

The standard error of mean, t-value and the significant level of score Environmental Awareness Scale of students of Granted and Self finance schools are computed for testing the null hypothesis. This detail is given in below Table-3.

Table- 3: Statistics of students of Granted and Self finance Schools

| Types of Management | Number N | Average \bar{x} | Standard Deviation (SD) | Error of mean σD | t-score | Significance level |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Granted | 112 | 43.91 | 11.51 | 0.46 | 0.77 | NS |
| Self finance | 118 | 44.27 | 11.35 | | | |

In above table 3 we can see that mean values of students of Granted and Self finance schools are 43.91 and 44.27 respectively. The S.D. value is 11.51 and 11.35. SED is 0.46. With the help of all these values computed t is 0.77 which is not higher than the tabulated value 1.96 at 0.05 level so null hypotheses **H₀₂ "There will be no significant difference between mean score of students of Granted and Self finance Secondary School on Environmental Awareness scale."** is accepted. Therefore, we can say that there is no significant difference between the average score of students of Granted and Self finance school on Environmental Awareness scale. It means there is no effect of area on Behavioural problems. The Environmental Awareness found to be equal for both students of Granted and Self finance schools.

17. Findings

The findings of the present study are as follows.

- There is significant effect of Gender on Environmental Awareness and issues related to Environmental protection. The Environmental Awareness of Boys are higher than girls.
- There is no significant effect of Types of Management on Environmental and issues related to Environmental protection. The Environmental Awareness of students of Granted and Self finance School are equal.

18. Educational Implications

Following are the educational implications for present research.

- Explain the students that our Earth is warming and humans are largely responsible for this. Discuss that the choices that we make today will affect the future of our earth.
- Talk with students about how our lives are connected to the climate and how we can reduce the risks from climate change.
- The environment day, the earth day and the jungle day should be celebrated in school to aware the students about environment.
- Teacher and parents should explain the importance of the plantation to the students.
- The teacher should explain students about how to use natural resources like solar energy, rainy water etc.
- Teacher should explain demerits of different pollution like air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution etc,
- Teacher should emphasis for veg-food and avoids non-veg food because animals are also part of our environment.
- In school no vehicle day should be celebrated.
- Teacher should explain the importance of jungle and specially trees.

18. Suggestions for future Research

No research is complete in the full extent. It is in the research itself the possibility of further research. Such possibilities arising out of the present research.

- The present research is undertaken for the geographical district of Narmada. One can take more extensive geographical regions or even focus on complete population for a small region.
- In present research the tool of research is prepared by the researcher. One can use different tool for more comprehensive results.
- The variables under study as considered after review of related literature and on suggestions of experts, however there are still more and different variables that can be considered for the research.
- In the present research type of research is descriptive survey, one can take up a other research method
- Present research measures the awareness about environment one can take another subject related to environment.
- In present research environment awareness of secondary students are held one can take students of Primary, Higher Secondary, B.Ed., M.Ed. or any other branch level.

19. Conclusion

The quest for environment awareness is a never quenching thirst. Efforts in the direction have been done by many scholars and experts, and are still undergoing by many. From the present research we can conclude that many factors affect the awareness of environment. However, the variable understudy like Gender, Types of management not affected the environment awareness of secondary students of Ahmedabad.

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